GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1960
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2005
QUALITY OF DRINKING WATER SOURCES
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Government has proposed to institutionalize rural water quality monitoring and surveillance systems for testing the quality of all drinking water sources in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the modalities worked out for effective implementation of the system?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA)

(a) & (b): A rural water quality monitoring and surveillance programme for testing the quality of all drinking water sources has already been pilot tested in four districts viz. Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh), Kangra (Himachal Pradesh), Nellore (Andhra Pradesh) and Sehore (Madhya Pradesh). Based on pilot studies, action has been initiated to obtain the necessary approvals for implementing the rural water quality & surveillance programme in the country. It is a community based programme that seeks to involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions at all levels in routine testing the quality of drinking water sources using field test kits under the guidance and supervision of the districts and the State level laboratories. Complex problems would be referred to districts and the State level laboratories. The programme would be implemented by the State Governments under technical guidance of a State Referral Institute to be identified by them. At the national level, the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, has been identified as the National Referral Institute, which would provide technical consultancy to the Department of Drinking Water Supply in administering the programme.